THE DOCTOR,

A Medical and Philosophical Penny Magazine.

"A WISE PHYSICIAN, SKILL'D OUR WOUNDS TO HEAL,
IS MORE THAN ARMIES TO THE PUBLIC WEAL."—*Pope's Homer.*

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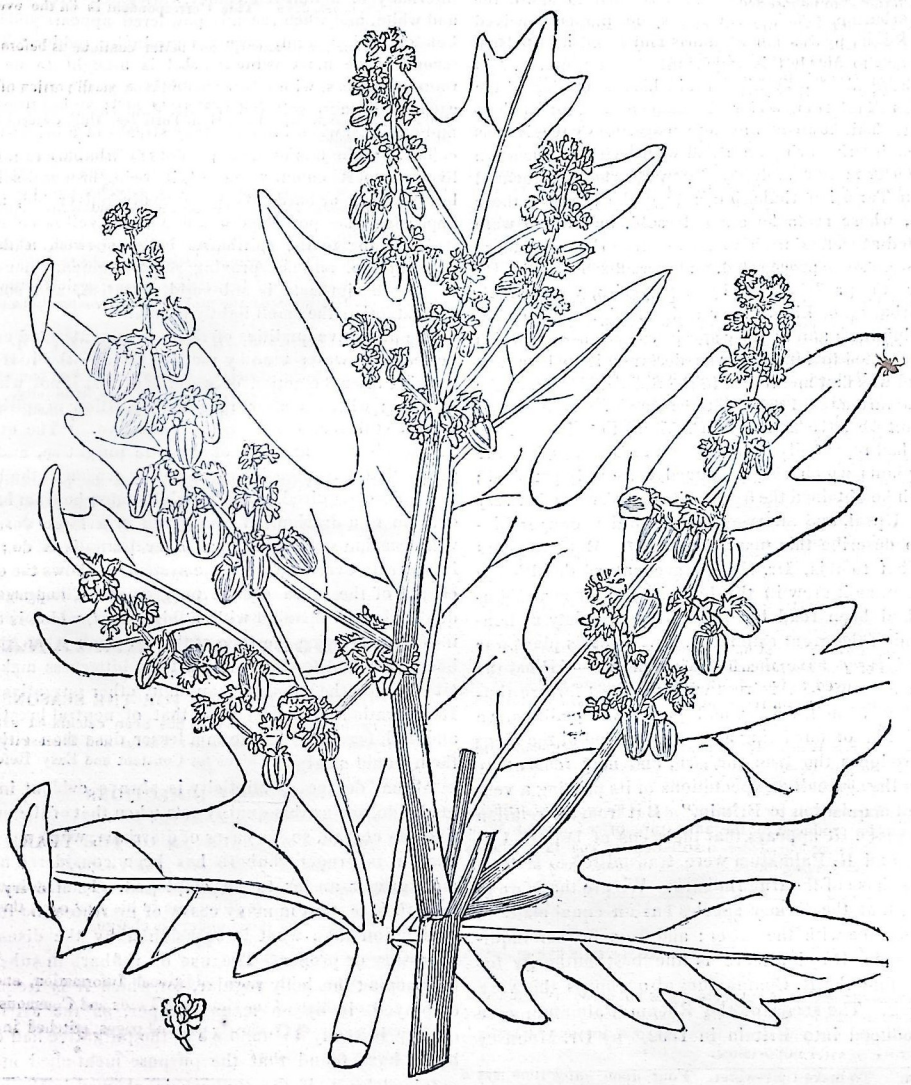

RHEUM PALMATUM. OFFICINAL RHUBARB.

CLASS, ENNEANDRIA. ORDER, TRIGYNIA.

THE root is perennial, thick, of an oval shape, and sends off long, tapering branches; externally it is brown, and internally of a deep yellow colour; the stalk is erect, round, hollow, jointed, sheathed, slightly scored, branched towards the top, and rises to the height of six or eight feet; the radical leaves are numerous, large, rough, of a roundish figure, and deeply cut into lobes, and irregularly pointed segments, and stand upon long smooth round footstalks; the leaves, which proceed from the stalk, are placed at the joints, which they supply with membranous sheaths, and are successively smaller towards the upper part of the stem; the flowers terminate the

branches, which they surround in numerous clusters, forming a kind of spike, and appear in April and May; the corolla divides into six obtuse segments, which are of a greenish-white colour, and alternately smaller; the calyx is wanting; the filaments are nine, slender, about the length of the corolla, and furnished with oblong double antheræ; the style is very short, and terminated by three reflected stigmata; the germen becomes a triangular seed; with membranous margins of a reddish colour. It is a native of Tartary, in Asia.

It was not until the year 1732 that naturalists became acquainted with any plant which seemed to afford the Rhabarbarum Officinale, when some plants, received from Russia by Jussieu at Paris and Rand at Chelsea, were said to supply this important desideratum, and as such were adopted by Linnæus, in his first edition of the Species Plantarum, under the name of Rheum Rhabarbarum. This however was not very generally received as the genuine rhubarb plant; and with a view to ascertain this matter more completely, Kauw Boerhaave procured from a Tartarian rhubarb merchant the seeds of those plants, whose roots he annually sold, and which were admitted at Petersburgh to be the true rhubarb; these seeds were soon propagated, and were discovered by De Gorter to produce two distinct species, viz. the R. Rhabarbarum of Linnæus, or as it has since been called R. Undulatum; and another species, a specimen of which was presented to Linnæus, who declared it to be a new one, and was first mentioned in the Second Edition of the Sp. Plantarum, in 1762, by the name of R. Palmatum (the plant we have figured). Previous to this time, De Gorter had repeatedly sent its seeds to Linnæus, but the young plants which they produced constantly perished; at length he obtained the fresh root, which succeeded very well at Upsal, and afterwards enabled the younger Linnæus to describe this plant, Ann. 1767. But two years antecedent to this, Dr. Hope's account of the Rheum Palmatum, as it grew in the botanic garden near Edinburgh, had been read before the Royal Society at London; and of the great estimation in which this plant was held by him we have the following proof:—"From the perfect similarity of this root with the best foreign rhubarb in taste, smell, colour, and purgative qualities, we cannot doubt of our being at last possessed of the plant which produces the true rhubarb, and may reasonably entertain the agreeable expectations of its proving a very important acquisition to Britain." But from the relation we have given, it appears that the seeds of both R. Undulatum and R. Palmatum were transmitted to Petersburgh, as those of the true rhubarb. We are therefore to conclude, that the former species has an equal claim to this importance with the latter; and from further inquiries made in Russia, there is the best authority for believing that the R. Compactum also affords this very useful drug. The seeds of the Rheum Palmatum were first introduced into Britain in 1762,* by Dr. Mounsey (who sent them from Russia), and were supposed to be a part of those already mentioned; and since their prosperous cultivation by the late Professor of Botany at Edinburgh, the propagation of this plant has been gradually extended to most of our English gardens, and with a degree of success which promises in time to supersede the importation of the foreign root.

Two sorts of rhubarb roots are usually imported into this country for medical use, viz. the Chinese and the Turkey rhubarb; the first is in oblong pieces, flattish on one side, and convex on the other; compact, hard, heavy, internally of a dull-red colour, variegated with yellow and white, and when recently powdered appears yellow, but on being kept, becomes gradually redder. The second is the most valuable, and is brought to us in roundish pieces, with a large hole through the middle of each; it is more soft and friable than the former sort, and exhibits, when broken, many streaks of a bright-red colour. "The marks of the goodness of rhubarb are, the liveliness of its colour when cut, its being firm and solid, but not flinty or hard; its being easily pulverable, and appearing when powdered of a fine bright yellow colour; its imparting to the spittle, on being chewed, a deep saffron tinge, and not proving slimy or mucilaginous in the mouth; its taste is sub-acrid, bitterish, and somewhat styptic; the smell lightly aromatic."

The purgative qualities of rhubarb are extracted more perfectly by water than by rectified spirit; the root remaining after the action of water is almost if not wholly inactive; whereas after repeated digestion in spirit, it proves still very considerably purgative. "The qualities of this root are that of a gentle purgative, and so gentle that it is often inconvenient by reason of the bulk of the dose required, which in adults must be from half a drachm to a drachm. When given in a large dose, it will occasion some griping, as other purgatives do; but it is hardly ever heating to the system, or shows the other effects of the more drastic purgatives. The purgative quality is accompanied with a bitterness, which is often useful in restoring the tone of the stomach when it has been lost; and for the most part its bitterness makes it sit better on the stomach than many other purgatives do. Its operation joins well with that of neutral laxatives; and both together operate in a lesser dose than either of them would singly.

"Some degree of stipticity is always evident in this medicine, and as this quality acts when that of the purgative has ceased, so in cases of diarrhœa, when any evacuation is proper, rhubarb has been considered as the most proper means to be employed. I must however remark here, that in many cases of diarrhœa, no further evacuation than what is occasioned by the disease is necessary or proper. The use of rhubarb in substance for keeping the belly regular, for which it is frequently employed, is by no means proper, as the astringent quality is ready to undo what the purgative had done; but I have found that the purpose mentioned may be obtained by it, if the rhubarb is chewed in the mouth, and no more is swallowed than what the saliva has dissolved. And I must remark that in this way employed it is

* Mr. Bell (in his *Travels from St. Petersburgh to divers parts of Asia*) says, that the best rhubarb grows plentifully on a long chain of mountains in Tartary, which extend from Selin to the lake Kako-nor near Tibet. At a proper age the roots are taken up, which according to Pallas is in April or May; but in Bell's account, this is said to be done in the Autumn; they are then to be cleaned, the smaller branches cut off, and the larger roots divided into pieces of a proper size; after this they are perforated, and suspended to dry either upon the neighbouring trees, or in tents, or as some have reported, to the horns of sheep. The proper exsiccation of this root is certainly attended with considerable difficulty, and the cultivators of rhubarb in this country have not yet agreed in what mode this is to be best accomplished. The recent root in this process, according to the experiment of Sir William Fordyce, loses nearly nine-tenths of its weight.

very useful to dyspeptic persons. Analogous to this, is the use of rhubarb in a solution, in which it appears to me, that the astringent quality is not so largely extracted as to operate so powerfully as when the rhubarb was employed in substance."

The officinal preparations of this drug are, a watery and a vinous infusion, a simple and compound tincture. It is also an ingredient in different compositions, as the Elixir ex aloe et rheo, pilulæ stomachicæ, and some others.

TAKING A NAP AFTER DINNER.

Many of our ancient, and some of our modern authors have written in favour of this indulgence, and we are decidedly of opinion, that to a limited extent it is a useful practice, indeed it is pointed out to us by nature, for all animals, after a meal repose themselves. Homer, Galen, Sanctorius, Boerhaave, and Hoffman, have all written upon this subject, in recommendation of its adoption, more especially to the aged. And that distinguished man Mr. Abernethy inculcated into the minds of his students the almost absolute necessity for the preservation of health, of rest for at least one hour after a substantial meal, and it is notorious that Mr. A. almost invariably put into practice this precept. Lewis Cornaro, who lived to upwards of 90 years, attributes, in part, his longevity to this practice. Rest, both mentally and corporeally, for a short period after dinner, decidedly contributes to the proper and quick digestion of food. After the first process of which, exercise becomes necessary, for without it the second process will be retarded.

CASE OF IDIOTISM AND APHONIA, PRODUCED BY FRIGHT, IN A WOMAN AT THE SEVENTH MONTH OF PREGNANCY.

This interesting case is related by Madame Boivin, in the *Journal Complementaire du Dictionnaire des Sciences Médicales*. A female, aged twenty-three, nervous constitution, bilious temperament, dark brunette, a mother at the age of twenty, her labour taking place at the seventh month of pregnancy, in consequence of bad treatment from her parents. The accouchement was preceded and followed by an abundant metrorrhagia, or loss of sanguineous fluid, and frequent faintings. Her health was however restored, and she left her paternal mansion and went to Paris. She again became pregnant, and at the sixth month of uterogestation she became extremely jealous, violently reproached and menaced her lover, who after vain attempts to calm her, threatened to have her removed from his dwelling by force, and went out to seek a police-officer. The patient immediately hid herself, and it was not until after a long search that she was afterwards found in a closet of a wardrobe. She was found in a state of stupor, which was at first supposed to be feigned. But nothing that could be said could induce her to leave her retreat or change her attitude or expression. It was necessary to remove her, and a physician was called, who thought that the patient was feigning. She however did not speak, nor make any signs; she did not exhibit any wants, and preserved any position in which she was placed. In this state she was taken to *La Maison Royale de Santé*, August 20th, 1820, two days after the occurrence, and was placed under the care of M. Duméril. She was here carefully watched by a special attendant. Her aspect at this period was frightful—her black hair stood erect on her head—her dark face, thin and excessively pale—her large black eyes, surmounted by thick eyebrows of the same colour, were fixed and prominent—her mouth wide open, and her chin resting on her chest. When any one entered her chamber, she turned her head, looked aside with an expression of fear, afterwards examined the person attentively as long as they continued in the room. She did not speak nor move; it appeared as if she did not understand anything that was said to her. Her appearance was so hideous that she was called by the other patients the vampire.

This singular state was unaccompanied with fever. An infusion of orange leaves, and a draught with ether, were ordered; but twenty-four hours elapsed without its being possible to induce her to take a cup of this liquid; she had not taken anything during the preceding two days. In the course of the fourth day, the sixth from the attack, she refused as usual the drinks which were offered her; but she made signs that she wanted an empty bottle that was in her sight, which was given her, when she put into it some of the fluid, and drank for the first time during six days. She had only urinated once, and then in her bed, and had not slept during this period. She continued afterwards to take drinks, but only with the bottle. A *douche ascendante* produced an evacuation from her bowels for the first time in six days.

The fifth day she took a little soup, and she was taken into the garden. She sat upon the ground, collected together the sand, selected the pebbles and shells that she found in it, and amused herself as if she were an infant of two years of age. Some one pretended to wish to take them away from her; her face immediately took on an expression of great anger, and afterwards she wept heartily. When the pebbles were returned to her, she exhibited a stupid joy. She continued this puerile amusement during twelve days: her speech did not return, and she did not give any sign of a return to reason.

The sixth day a large blister was applied to her neck, but neither during the drawing or dressing did she exhibit any signs of pain.

On the eighth the shower-bath was ordered. The patient on being stripped entirely of her clothes, made no resistance. When the water fell upon her she appeared seized with fright; her limbs were violently agitated; but she did not attempt either to rise or remove herself; she neither groaned nor cried; her respiration became suspended; finally, syncope came on, from which she was with difficulty revived. After being placed in bed she slept many hours. She showed afterwards by signs that she remembered the shower-bath.

On the twelfth day she showed by signs that she had pains in her right leg. A flying blister was applied to her knee and the pain disappeared. From this period she attempted to speak; she moved her lips, but she did not articulate a single word.

The fifteenth day, when she was asked how she had passed the preceding night, she took a piece of paper and pencil out of the hands of the interrogator, and wrote down an answer. She asked at the same time where she was, and appeared much astonished on being told that she

was in an hospital in Paris. During three days she communicated in this way with her attendants.

On the nineteenth day she was attacked with pain in her back, which becoming more violent, she uttered a shriek and afterwards exclaimed, "Ah! mon Dieu!" The attendants surprised and frightened, repeated the exclamation, and ran into the passages and wards, crying the vampire has spoken. The patient in her turn appeared equally surprised at what was passing around her; her attendants on recovering from their surprise, re-entered her chamber to congratulate her. She inquired of them what there was extraordinary about her; whether she had not spoken before, and said she believed that they had been deaf. When her history and appearance were detailed to her, she joined heartily in the laugh.

From this period she continued to speak with facility, and even very agreeably. Her appearance became very pleasant, and her eyes assumed an expression of the utmost mildness. She did not recollect any of the circumstances which had preceded or attended the disease; not even the shower-bath, which had produced so violent an effect.

The sight of her lover, who visited her during her disease, did not produce any effect upon the patient; she regarded him at first with fright, as she did others.

The patient remained in the hospital until after her accouchement, when she was discharged well.

THE SOMNAMBULIST.

In conning over an old Magazine the other day, we stumbled upon the following remarkable story of a sleep-walker, as related by a foreigner. Paying a visit to a friend in the country, I met there an Italian gentleman, named Agostino Fosari, whose extraordinary nocturnal rambles were the subject of general conversation. I had the curiosity to wish to witness his freaks, and accordingly bribed his valet to inform me when his master was likely to go through his vagaries. One night, towards the end of October, the Signior retired to rest about eleven o'clock, when, from his disturbed sleep his valet anticipated a rambling fit, and duly apprized me thereof. The servant was not wrong in his conjecture, for about twelve o'clock he arose and dressed himself, walked several times backward and forward in his chamber, then seated himself in an elbow chair, and went some little time after into a closet, where was his portmanteau, which he rummaged over, locked it carefully, and put the key into his pocket. He then descended the stairs, proceeded to the stable, and was about to caparison his horse, but not finding the saddle where it usually hung, he seemed vexed and disappointed; but notwithstanding mounted his steed, rode him to a pond and let him drink, and then returned him to the stable, where he left him. He next proceeded to a room, in which was a billiard-table, where he seized a cue and went through all the attitudes of the game; from whence he proceeded to his bed-room, undressed himself and slept soundly till the morning, quite unconscious of his Quixotic adventure of the past night.

SUPERSTITIOUS IDEAS RESPECTING THE DEATH'S-HEAD-MOTH.

The death's-head-moth is not the only insect whose sound alarms the superstitious. Insects, which are much more common, though from their minuteness not so often seen as heard, often strike the uneducated with terror as the messengers of death. We refer to the sound which most of our readers may have heard issuing from old timber or old books, resembling the ticking of a watch, and hence popularly called the *death-watch*. Some writers, who are desirous of being thought very accurate, are particular in distinguishing a certain insect as the genuine death-watch, while others are held to be spurious; yet there can be no doubt that the same sort of ticking is produced by several species. Latreille, indeed, seems to say that it is common to a whole genus; and besides these, of which Mr. Stephens enumerates ten species found in Britain, we know at least two species of a very different genus, also indigenous, which produce the so-much-dreaded sound.

Sir Thomas Browne considered the subject of the death-watch of great importance, and remarks that the man "who could eradicate this error from the minds of the people, would save from many a cold sweat the meticulous heads of nurses and grandmothers," as such persons are firm in the belief, that

The solemn death-watch clicks the hour of death.

Swift endeavoured to perform this useful task by means of ridicule. His description, suggested it would appear by the old song of "A cobbler there was, and he lived in a stall," runs thus:—

"A wood-worm
That lies in old wood, like a hare in her form,
With teeth or with claws, it will bite, it will scratch;
And chambermaids christen this worm a death-watch;
Because, like a watch, it always cries click.
Then woe be to those in the house that are sick!
For, sure as a gun, they will give up the ghost,
If the maggot cries click when it scratches the post,
But a kettle of scalding hot water injected,
Infallibly cures the timber affected;
The omen is broken, the danger is over,
The maggot will die, and the sick will recover."

It may be well to give a few notices from naturalists who have observed these insects. "I possess," says Swammerdam, "a small beetle, which having firmly and strongly fixed its foremost legs, and bent and put its head through the space between them, makes a continual noise in old pieces of wood, walls, and ceilings, which is sometimes so loud, that, upon hearing it, people have been persuaded that nocturnal hobgoblins, ghosts, or fairies, wandered about them. Other species of beetle make a strange noise by rubbing their head against their breast, and others press their tail or belly close to their wing-cases, and by that means also make an uncommon creaking."

FOR PIMPLES ON THE TONGUE.

In some disorders of the stomach, this local affection often proves very troublesome, and sometimes painful; the following is recommended:—

Take of Borax, in powder, one drachm.
Salt of Prunella, half a drachm.
Sirup of Mulberries, two ounces.

To be frequently applied in the course of the day.

EARLY STRUGGLES.

(*Continued from p.* 62.)

I think it was about this time that I was summoned in haste to young Sir Charles F——, who resided near Mayfair. Delighted at the prospect of securing so distinguished a patient, I hurried to his house, resolved to do my utmost to give satisfaction. When I entered the room, I found the sprig of fashion enveloped in a crimson silk dressing-gown, sitting conceitedly on the sofa, and sipping a cup of coffee, from which he desisted a moment to examine me—positively—through his eye-glass, and then directed me to inspect the swelled foot of a favourite pointer! Darting a look of anger at the insulting coxcomb, I instantly withdrew without uttering a word. *Five years* afterwards did that young man make use of the most strenuous efforts to oust me from the confidence of a family of distinction, to which he was distantly related.

A more mortifying incident occurred shortly afterwards. I had the misfortune to be called on a sudden emergency into consultation with the late celebrated Dr. — . It was the first consultational-visit that I had ever paid; and I was, of course, very anxious to acquit myself creditably. Shall I ever forget the air of insolent condescension with which he received me; or the remark he made in the presence of several individuals, professional as well as unprofessional—"I assure you, Dr. ——, there is *really* some difference between apoplexy and epilepsy, at least there was when I was a young man!" He accompanied these words with a look of supercilious commiseration, directed to the lady whose husband was our patient; and I need not add, that my future services were dispensed with! My heart ached to think, that such a fellow as this should have it in his power to take, as it were, the bread out of the mouth of an unpretending, and almost spirit-broken, professional brother; but I had no remedy. I am happy to have it in my power to say how much the tone of consulting physicians is now (1820) lowered towards their brethren who may happen to be of a few years' less standing, and, consequently, less firmly fixed in the confidence of their patients. It was by a few similar incidents to those above related, that my spirit began to be soured; and had it not been for the unvarying sweetness and cheerfulness of my incomparable wife, existence would not have been tolerable. My professional efforts were paralysed; failure attended every attempt; my ruin seemed sealed. My resources were rapidly melting away—my expenditure, moderate as it was, was counterbalanced by no incomings. A prison and starvation scowled before me.

Despairing of finding any better source of emolument, I was induced to send an advertisement to one of the daily papers, stating, that "a graduate of Cambridge University, having a little spare time at his disposal, was willing to give private instructions in the classics, in the evenings, to gentlemen preparing for college, or to others!" After about a week's interval, I received one solitary communication. It was from a young man holding some subordinate situation under government, and residing at Pimlico. This person offered me two guineas a month, if I would attend him *at his own house*, for two hours, on the evenings of Monday, Wednesday, and Friday! With these hard terms was I obliged to comply—yes, a gentleman, and a member of an English University, was driven so low as to attend, for these terms, an ignorant underling, and endeavour to instil a few drops of classic lore into the turbid and shallow waters of his understanding. I had hardly given him a month's attendance before he assured me, with a flippant air, that, as he had now acquired "a practical knowledge of the classics," he would dispense with my further services! Dull dunce! he could not, in Latin, be brought to comprehend the difference between a neuter and an active verb; while, as for Greek, it was an absolute chokepear; so he nibbled on for awhile—and then gave it up. Bitter but unavailing were my regrets, as I returned from paying my last visit to this promising scholar, that I had not entered the army, and gone to America, or even betaken myself to some subordinate commercial situation. A thousand and a thousand times did I curse the ambition which brought me up to London, and the egregious vanity which led me to rely so implicitly on my talents for success. Had I but been content with the humbler sphere of a general practitioner, I might have laid out my dearly bought 3000*l.* with a reasonable prospect of soon repaying it, and acquiring a respectable livelihood. But all these sober thoughts, as is usual, came only time enough to enhance the mortification of failure.

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About 300*l.* was now the miserable remnant of the money borrowed from the Jew: and half a years' interest, (225*l.*), together with my rent, was due in about a fortnight's time. I was, besides, indebted to many tradesmen—who were becoming every day more querulous—for articles of food, clothing, and furniture. My poor Emily was in daily expectation of her accouchement; and my own health was sensibly sinking, under the combined pressure of anxiety and excessive parsimony. What was to be done? Despair was clinging to me, and shedding blight and mildew over all my faculties. Every avenue was closed against me. I never knew what it was to have more than one or two hours' sleep at night, and that so heavy, so troubled, and interrupted, that I awoke each morning more dead than alive. I lay tossing in bed, revolving all conceivable schemes and fancies in my tortured brain, till at length, from mere iteration, they began to assume a feasible aspect; alas! however, they would none of them bear the blush of daylight, but faded away as extravagant and absurd. I would endeavour to set afloat a popular Medical Journal —to give lectures on diseases of the lungs (a department with which I was familiar)—I would advertise for a small medical partnership, as a general practitioner—I would do a thousand things of the sort; but where was my capital to set out with? I had 300*l.* in the world, and 450*l.* yearly to pay to an extortionating old miser; that was the simple fact; and it almost drove me to despair to advert to it for one instant. Wretched, however, as I was, and almost every instant loathing my existence, the idea of suicide was never entertained for a moment. If the fiend would occasionally flit across the dreary chamber of my heart, a strong, an unceasing confidence in the goodness and power of my Maker always repelled the fearful visitant. Even yet, rapidly as I seemed approaching the precipice of ruin, I could not avoid cherishing a feeble hope that some unexpected avenue would open to better fortune; and the thought of it would for a time soothe my troubled breast, and nerve it to bear up against the inroads of my present misfortunes.

I recollect sitting down one day in St. James's Park, on one of the benches, weary with wandering the whole

morning, I knew not whither. I felt faint and ill, and more than usually depressed in mind. I had that morning paid one of my tradesmen's bills, amounting to 10*l.*; and the fellow told my servant, that, as he had so much trouble in getting his money, he did not want the honour of my custom any longer. The thought that my credit was failing in the neighbourhood was insupportable. Ruin and disgrace would then be accelerated; and being unable to meet my creditors, I should be proclaimed little less than a swindler, and shaken like a viper from the lap of society. Fearful as were such thoughts, I had not enough of energy of feeling left to suffer much agitation from them. I folded my arms on my breast in sullen apathy, and wished only that, whatever might be my fate, certainty might be substituted for suspense.

(*To be continued.*)

MEDICAL LAW EVIDENCE.

The discharge of the duties of *legal medicine* brings the practitioner into a new and most important situation. There is not in fact another which more imperatively calls for a greater diversity of talent and acquirement.

When summoned to a patient seized with an alarming attack, he makes rapid inquiries; yet the symptoms are unaccountable, and he remains perplexed. With difficulty, suspicion of poison enters his mind, and he looks round on the family; their countenances, their characters, their relative circumstances, are quickly brought under review, and make more difficult his diagnosis. Joined to this, his measures must be as prompt as the rapid workings of the poison; the knowledge of the remedy is not then to be sought for, or all is over with his patient. Nor is there less required in the unfortunate issue of the case, for in exploring the evidences of poison in the corpse, the utmost skill is called for in anatomy and in chemistry, and expertness in manipulations. It is such duties ably performed that raise our profession to an exalted rank in the eyes of the world, that cause the vulgar, who are ever ready to exclaim against the inutility of medicine, to marvel at the mysterious power by which an atom of arsenic, mingled amidst a mass of confused ingesta, can still be detected. It does more; it impresses on the minds of assassins, who resort to poisons, a salutary dread of the great impossibility of escaping discovery. But if the able or faulty discharge of such duties contribute to exalt or degrade the profession in general, much more does it influence the fate of the individual practitioner. When cited to give public evidence, the eyes of the judge and of the jury are directed to him, on whom hangs the fate of the prisoner. How painful must it be to others to observe so important a witness hesitating and floundering with all the uncertainty of ignorance; and probably teazed and perplexed by the queries of some subtle barrister, who triumphs over his doubts and perplexities! On the contrary if he is skilled in his profession, and of course clear and decisive in his evidence, the barrister, with his little smattering of forensic medicine, is awed into respect by superior knowledge, and both judge and jury are ready to own their obligations to him, and to do justice to his merit. Such competent skill in legal medicine, however, is not to be attained without considerable labour.

Upon this interesting and important subject more will be entered into in a subsequent Number.

MEMOIRS OF THE MOST DISTINGUISHED MEDICAL MEN.

Sir Henry Halford.

This distinguished physician is the son of Dr. Vaughan, a physician at Leicester, and was born in that city at the latter end of the year 1766. He commenced his education at Rugby school, whence he removed in 1783 to Christchurch College, Oxford, where he took his medical degrees in succession, and obtained a fellowship about eleven years after his entrance into the University. Having chosen the profession of medicine, he commenced the study of physic at Edinburgh, where he passed two years, and afterwards attended the hospitals in London, where he entered into practice in 1793. About the same time he married the Hon. Miss F. St. John; an alliance which, in conjunction with his own abilities, introduced him to extensive and fashionable employment. He was shortly afterwards appointed physician extraordinary to George the Third, and created a baronet, prior to which he had been elected a fellow of the College of Physicians in London. During the long illness of his royal patient, to whom he became physician in ordinary, Sir Henry distinguished himself by his unremitting care and attention, and attracted the regard of the Prince of Wales, who generally selected him as his medical adviser.

In 1820, he was chosen president of the Royal College of Physicians, a situation he still retains as well as that of physician in ordinary to their present majesties; which appointment he had also held under George the Fourth. Sir Henry, who changed his name to Halford on succeeding to some family estates, does not appear to have published more than two works—Oratio Harveiana Habita, 1800, quarto: and An Account of what appeared on opening the Coffin of King Charles the First, in St. George's Chapel, at Windsor, 1813, quarto. The first of these evinces considerable classic learning; and shows, says the author of Public Characters, "that its author did not walk idly in the academic shades of Oxford." In addition to the works mentioned, Sir Henry contributed a few papers to the Medical Transactions, and to those of the College of Physicians.

Sir Henry Halford is not only an able physician, but, as a man of general science, takes a very high stand in his profession. "His treatment," says the authority before cited, "is founded on general principles, and he is well acquainted with the agents employed in medicine, and with the art of proportioning them to the exigency of the case." No man is more generally employed in the circles of rank and fashion than Sir Henry; and such is the extent of his practice, that he is said to realize by it nearly 30,000*l.* per annum. He is the brother of the present Mr. Baron Vaughan, and both in his professional and private character is much esteemed and respected. In addition to his other distinctions, he is a fellow of the Royal and Antiquarian Societies.

For a Stitch in the Side when unattended with Inflammation.

The following liniment is strongly recommended:—

Take of Camphorated Liniment, one ounce.
Tincture of Opium, two drachms.
Oil of Elder, half an ounce.
Volatile Spirit, two drachms. Mix.

The affected side to be well rubbed with the above, will seldom fail to remove the complaint after a few applications.

WORMS.

"LANDS," says the author of the Natural History of Selborne, "that are subject to frequent inundations, are always poor; and, probably, the reason may be because the worms are drowned. The most insignificant insects and reptiles are of much more consequence and have much more influence in the economy of nature, than the inaccurate are aware of; and are mighty in their effect from their minuteness, which renders them less an object of attention; and from their numbers and fecundity. Earthworms, though in appearance a small and despicable link in the chain of nature, yet, if lost would make a lamentable chasm. For some quadrupeds which are almost entirely supported by them, worms seem to be the great promoters of vegetation, which would proceed but slowly without them, by boring, perforating, and loosening the soil, and rendering it pervious to rains and the fibres of plants, by drawing straws and stalks of leaves into it; and, most of all, by throwing up such infinite numbers of lumps of earth called worm-casts, which being their excrement, is a fine manure for grain and grass." Farmers and horticulturists have a great horror of worms, the first thinking that they devour the green corn, and the latter because of the unsightly heap which worms make in the garden walks. But, whatever mischief they may do, it is pretty certain that the good which they perform, sufficiently compensates for the evil. So it is with birds; they may destroy a few buds on your fruit-trees, but they devour millions of insects. The grubs of the gnat and beetle tribes are extremely injurious to young plants, but the injury which worms do to them is trifling, the benefit very considerable. Worms are most in the spring months, but are out on the grass in mild nights. Their fecundity is very great. They cast most in mild weather, in the months of March and April. On rainy nights they travel about in search of food. When they lie out in the evenings they do not entirely quit their holes, but keep the extremity of their tails just within them, so that, when anything approaches they suddenly retire into the ground; yet notwithstanding this precaution, they often fall a prey to the larger sized birds.

DRUNKENNESS.

"Drunkenness," says Montaigne, "seems to me to be a stupid brutal vice. The understanding has a greater share in all other vices, and there are some which may be said to have something generous in them. There are some in which there is a mixture of knowledge, diligence, valour, prudence, dexterity or cunning, while drunkenness is altogether corporeal and terrestrial."

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

"Mary Ann Dale." ℞ Ext. Cinchonæ ʒj. Ext. Conii gr. vi. Pil. Aloes c. Myrrhâ ℈ij. M. Divid. in pilul. xxx. Sumat ij nocte et mane quotidie. And make use of the following lotion thrice daily: ℞ Decoct. Ulmi ʒvijss. Pulv. Aluminis Sulph. ʒij. M. Ft. lotio. Write again.

"An Enquirer" is informed that "a rupture of the Hxxx, does not necessarily precede a rupture of the Wxxx." The complaint alluded to often arises from constitutional debility, more especially the part in question. This case is precisely like that under which "Mary Ann Dale" is labouring, the same treatment is therefore recommended.

"Alex. R." is recommended to take two of *The Doctor's Stomach Pills* every night for a fortnight, then write again. Live *very* temperately.

"T. H. G. B." Take one teaspoonful of the Carbonate of Iron twice or thrice daily in a little treacle or honey, and continue *The Doctor's Balsam of Luputine*. Fear not, an improvement has already taken place. Write again.

"Robin Hood" is informed, that the insensible perspiration of a healthy person always possesses saline properties, but in many cases of indisposition there is a deficiency of saline matter; the local application therefore of sea-water supplies that wanted principle, besides its stimulating effects on the system generally. Taking with meat "a considerable quantity" of salt is decidedly injurious, hence among sailors the prevalence of scurvy.

"W. H. J." Continue as before for ten or twelve days, then write again.

"J. H. G." is directed to apply a large warm plaster to the chest, and by all means continue *The Doctor's Pectoral Pills*, of which take two three times daily, and twice daily three tablespoonfuls of the following mixture:—℞ Magnes. Sulph. ℥ss. Infus. Rosæ ℥vij. Acid Sulph. Diluti ʒiss. Tinct. Scillæ ℥ij. Tinct. Digitalis ʒj. M. Drink nothing hotter than blood-heat, and that chiefly tea and milk. Avoid night air. Write again in a fortnight.

"G. G. Z." Continue by all means the Carbonate of Iron; we are glad to find this patient so much better; he will be made quite well.

"P. P. P." is instructed to warm the drops for the ear, by immersing the bottle in a mug of hot water (first taking out the cork), and pour from eight to ten drops into the ear, and immediately afterwards introduce a small quantity of cotton-wool. Does he continue to syringe with warm soap-and-water? that being desireble. Write again.

"Caroline Brown" must immediately have recourse to *The Doctor's Pectoral Pills*, of which take two twice or thrice daily, and regulate the bowels by taking two of *The Doctor's Stomach Pills* at bed-time as occasion may require. Write again.

"M. G. A. Allen." If consumption in the case of his son be fully *established*, we know of no remedy that will save him. He is strongly recommended to accompany him to the Editor's Chambers as early as possible, in order that the chest may undergo a scrutinous examination, and the Editor will be very candid to the father in giving his opinion. In the mean time give him one of *The Doctor's Pectoral Pills* every six or eight hours. Should an interview be objected to, write again in twelve days.

"Debtor." ℞ Argent. Nitrat. gr. v. Decoct. Ulmi ℥viij. M. Ft. Injectio.; bis die utend. Write again.

"S. S. as above." ℞ Magnes. Carb. ʒiss. Pulv. Rhæi ʒss. Sodæ Carb. ʒss. Tinct. Zingib. Tinct. Card. Comp. āā. ℥ss. Mist. Camph. ℥vjss. M. Sumat cochl. ij larg. bis quotidie. *The Doctor's Pro-bilious Pills* are not aperient. To obviate costiveness, take as occasion may require two of *The Doctor's Stomach Pills*. Write, or call again at the Office.

"Adonis Cinyras" is recommended to take one teaspoonful of the Carbonate of Iron three times a day in honey or treacle for three weeks; then write again. This patient is becoming nervous. Fear not. Worse cases have come under our notice, and have been *cured*. Elderberry wine will not do in the place of Port; a better substitute would be a pint or so of home-brewed ale in the course of the day. Write again. Nil desperandum.

"A King's College Student." To obtain *Sebacic Acid* distil hog's-lard, wash the product with hot water, and drop into it a solution of acetate of lead till it occasions no further precipitate. Collect this precipitate, wash it and dry it. Having done this, pour over it sulphuric acid and heat it; a substance resembling fat will then appear on the surface. This being collected, dissolved in boiling water, and suffered to cool, crystallises, and is Sebacic Acid. Questions from medical students on any subject relative to the profession we shall at all times be happy to answer.

"A. E. F." being a druggist, we at once concluded that no *particular* directions were required. Of course the two applications were to be used as drops: from four to six droped into the ear each time. We know of no book on which dependence can be placed, on "the indications of diseases from the appearance of the urine." For a work on "compatibles and incompatibles" we think "Rennie's Supplement to the Pharmacopœia" is perhaps the best.

"A. R." For Wife: Query, is not the protrusion in this case piles? because *prosidentia ani* is an unfrequent disease in adult subjects. For Child: Dust the part with fine levigated charcoal, and return the bowel on all occasions when it may protrude. For Self: Continue for a short time longer as before recommended.

"L. C." and "Obdurate's" questions we find cannot be answered in this place, as much must be said upon them, but at a future period they shall form an article in the body of the Magazine. "Mr. Halligan" for the same reason must receive a private letter, although contrary to our usual custom.

"Veridate." ℞ Bals. Copaibæ, Tinct. Benzoin, *āā.* ʒvj. Tinct. Lyttæ ʒiij. M. Sumat cochl. j parv. ter die in aquâ. ℞ Pulv. Aluminis Sulph. ʒij. Decoct. Querci ʒvj. Vin. Opii ʒj. M. Ft. injectio; bis vel ter die utend. Write again if necessary.

"Francis Street." The Balm of Britannia is not now prepared, being superseded by *The Doctor's Balsam of Lupuline*, a medicine infinitely superior for nervous affections, and this Correspondent is recommended to instantly commence with it.

"James Williams." *The Doctor's Pro-bilious Pills* are in no way aperient. Costiveness must be obvinted, for which purpose take two of *The Doctor's Stomach Pills* as occasion may require. Continue by all means the *Pro-bilious Pills*, and we warrant that the liver will be brought into healthy action. Write again.

"Mary Ann C." the local affection of which she complains, mainly arises from a disordered stomach, for which *The Doctor's Stomach Pills* are recommended; take two every night for a fortnight, then write again. *The Doctor's Chemical Wash-balls* will be found of use, they will very shortly be ready for sale.

"W. Smith, 110, Y. St." it is feared has disease of the lungs; immediately have recoure to *The Doctor's Pectoral Pills*, take two three times a day for a fortnight, then write again. Do not drink beer or spirit; cold tea or milk must constitute the chief beverage.

"Omega's" Wife may take the medicine prescribed in the last Number under *any condition of the body.*

"McGregor" most continue *The Doctor's Pro-bilious Pills*, and to obviate costiveness, he must take two of *The Doctor's Stomach Pills* with the *Pro-bilious* every night. This Correspondent is better. Continue under our directions, and a cure is promised. Write again.

"J. B., Locks-fields," is unjustly accused. The following will quickly put him to rights:—℞ Potassæ Acetat. ʒij. Mellis ℥ss. Tinct. Digitalis ʒiss. Ol. Juniperi gutt. x. Mist. Camph. ʒvij. M. Sumat cochl. iij larg. bis quotidie. And take two of *The Doctor's Stomach Pills* every night. Fail not to write again in a fortnight.

"Matrimony" has not "a tape worm." Pomegranate bark is now almost obsolete, from its proved inefficacy, therefore have not recourse to it, continue as before. As refers to "imperfect vision," the state of the eyes should be ascertained, for which purpose call on the Editor at his Chambers on Friday, or Monday next.

"Chas. Day," as refers to the fear of Erysipelas, is strongly recommended to see the Editor, because no description on paper can convey a tenth part of the information which a glance can. We are pleased he is better from taking *The Doctor's Pro-bilious Pills*, which continue. If he cannot conveniently call, take three tablespoonfuls of the following mixture twice daily:—℞ Magnes. Sulph. ʒvj. Acid Sulph. Diluti ʒiss. Infus. Gent. Comp. ℥vjss. Tinct. Cascarillæ ʒss. M. Call at the Office, or write again next week.

"E. A. F." must call on the Editor on Friday next, when information will be afforded him which cannot be detailed in a public journal. In the mean time *be quiet.* Call by all means, we feel much for this patient, but angry with him for taking the step he has.

"W. Moakes." ℞ Bals. Copaibæ, Tinct. Benzoin, *āā.* ʒvj. Tinct. Lyttæ ʒiij. M. Sumat cochl. j parv. ter die in aquâ. Cold water as a local application. Write again.

"A. B. Titchfield" shall have a change. ℞ Argent. Nitrat. gr. v. Mist. Camphoræ ʒviij. M. Ft. Injectio. To be used *once* a day for three days, then *twice* for three days longer, after which write again. Fear not temporary pain for permanent benefit.

"Detector" must indeed be an extraordinary man, to dispute with Pope and Homer!!! "Weal" implies Welfare, *Veal* served up, a good dish. Go on with *detection*, we are not alarmed, nor are we angry.

"R. W. Oldham" must continue the *Pro-bilious Pills* by all means, and take three tablespoonfuls of the following mixture twice daily:—℞ Magnes. Sulph. ʒvj. Infus. Gent. Comp. ℥vjss. Acid Sulph. Diluti ʒiss. Tinct. Cascarillæ ʒvj. M. Take not spirit of any kind, and but little beer, beef or mutton for dinner in preference to any other kind of meat. Avoid fish. Write again.

"Suffolk" will shortly be restored to health. Take two of *The Doctor's Stomach Pills* every night for a fortnight, and apply three leeches to each temple. Avoid malt liquor, drink nothing stronger than a little sherry and water. Feet in warm water at bed-time every alternate evening. Write again.

"Matthew Brown." There is no such thing in reality as "Anodyne Cement," the word "Anodyne" is only made use of to beguile the unwary.

"H. E. S." shall be made quite well. The former practices have given rise to his present symptoms. ℞ Tinct. Ferri Muriat. ʒij. Infus. Gent. Comp. ℥vij. Tinct. Cascarillæ ʒvj. M. Sumat cochl. ij larg. bis quotidie. Regulate your bowels by taking two of *The Doctor's Stomach Pills* every night. Write again in three weeks. Articles on *Consumption* will be found in the last Volume.

"T. B." For so trifling a disorder so large a dose of calomel was uncalled for, if indeed there was any necessity to administer it at all. The following electuary is recommended:—℞ Sulph. Precipitat. ʒss. Elect. e Sennn ʒij. Syr. Mori ʒvj. M. Sumat cochl. j parv. nocte et mane quotidie. Write again if necessary. Let not the same medical man make up the above prescription.

"J. G. J., Gutter-lane." The Editor will go over his library to find that Volume of *The Lancet* in which *Professor Youatt's* Lectures on Diseases of Cattle are published, and will forward the same to the Office on or before Wednesday next; and will esteem it a favour if the messenger who calls for it will leave the book by "*W. Derham*," which shall be returned to the Office on the following Saturday. Respecting the medical gentleman alluded to, why of course they *all*, with some exceptions, dislike *The Doctor*, because it instructs the public in the means for the improvement and preservation of health. *Liberal* and *intelligent* medical men agree that our Magazine is among the most useful publications of the day. The Editor will feel most happy to see this intelligent correspondent at his Chambers; but call at half past seven, when an exchange of scientific ideas may for a short time be indulged in.

"Rusticus." ℞ Tinct. Ferri Muriat. ʒij. Infus. Cascarillæ ℥vij. Tinct. Cinchonæ Comp. ʒvj. M. Sumat cochl. iij larg. bis quotidie. Cold salt-and-water as a local application. *Steep on your side.* Avoid spirits, but take two glasses of Port-wine daily. Keep your bowels free by continuing *The Doctor's Stomach Pills.* For the present omit *The Doctor's Balsam of Lupuline*; it has been taken without advice. At present it is out of place. Write again in three weeks. Fear not.

Consultations.—The Editor may be personally consulted by patients requiring his advice, at *The Doctor* Office, every Monday and Friday from 5 till 7 o'clock. There are separate waiting rooms, and the consultation fee is 2s. 6d.

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